

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 615 without my signature.

While I share the author's goal of improving access to healthcare in underserved areas, I cannot sign this bill as it duplicates existing efforts. A similar scholarship program already exists and is available to pharmacy technician students. Specifically, the Healthcare Professional Education Foundation administers the Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program which is available to qualified individuals who apply for the scholarship. In addition, the shortage of pharmacy technicians is not well documented by current workforce data. I am directing the California Health and Human Services Agency to review the potential shortage in the pharmacy technician workforce and consider including this profession in healthcare workforce discussions and activities underway.

For this reason, I am returning SB 615 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger